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United States Senate

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The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20224

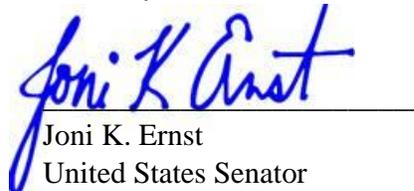
Dear Commissioner Rettig:

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law. This legislation provided for Americans who qualify to receive a stimulus check of \$1,200 per person, \$2,400 per couple, and an additional \$500 for each child claimed as a dependent on a 2018 or 2019 tax return, if already filed. Due to the shelter-in-place mandates currently in place throughout the nation, as well as increased anxiety and economic uncertainty, domestic violence victims are particularly vulnerable. I write to you today to ask the Internal Revenue Service to establish procedures that will ensure those who have chosen to separate from their abuser will be able to safely access their stimulus check.

In the United States, more than 10 million women and men are physically abused by an intimate partner a year.¹ Domestic violence rates rise in times of crisis, and this crisis will not be an exception.² In Seattle, Washington, an early hot spot for the virus, the Seattle Police Department saw a 21% increase in reported domestic violence.³ Even in normal circumstances, leaving an abusive situation requires immense courage and has ongoing emotional and financial struggles. Including domestic violence resources when providing Americans details on how to collect their stimulus, including information on how survivors can get access, is vital to their livelihood and ability to build a new life.

The IRS must ensure that survivors are able to receive their stimulus check safely. During this crisis, every American deserves the promise of economic stability, and survivors are no different. Thank you for all of your work during this trying time, and thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention: National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2011), https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

² Alisha Haridasani Gupta and Aviva Stahl, *For Abused Women, a Pandemic Lockdown Holds Dangers of Its Own*, The New York Times (March 24, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/24/us/coronavirus-lockdown-domestic-violence.html>.

³ Seattle Police Dept. (@SeattlePD), Twitter (Apr. 1, 2020), <https://twitter.com/seattlepd/status/1245501627877838848?s=21>.

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